



Newsletter

March 2025

John's Epistle: Coming Home

This Wednesday, March 5, marks the beginning of our first Lenten season together, the congregation of Oak Grove UMC with me as your pastor. We will start our recognition of Lent with a brief Ash Wednesday service of worship and devotion in our Sanctuary at 6:00 PM that day, including the imposition of ashes. I hope to see you there and look forward to sharing with you some thoughts about the origin and purpose of Lent, as well as some ideas for how to keep the season.

Lent, a season of preparation for the celebration of Easter, is often described as a spiritual journey, a time of penance and purification much like the journey of the Israelites as they wandered in the wilderness prior to entering the Promised Land. There are many stories of such wilderness wanderings or spiritual pilgrimages in the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

As with other seasons we have shared together since I arrived last summer, part of our journey will be embarking on a new Worship Series for the Season of Lent. The series, Coming Home, is based on the story we often call "The Parable of the Prodigal Son," the story of the younger brother who embarks on a journey far from home, only to realize home is exactly where he needed to be all along.

The Series starts next Sunday, March 9, as our recurring guest preacher and pastor, Dr. Joe Scahill, will offer us his thoughts about the Parable and how it relates to finding our center in God. If you would like to join the study group being led by Donna Metcalf, or to simply obtain a copy of the companion book that the group and many others in the congregation will be reading throughout the Season, please contact us at the church office so that we can help you get connected to those resources.

May this journey of Lent bring you closer to your home in God, closer to one another, and closer to your spiritual home at Oak Grove! I look forward to the journey with you!

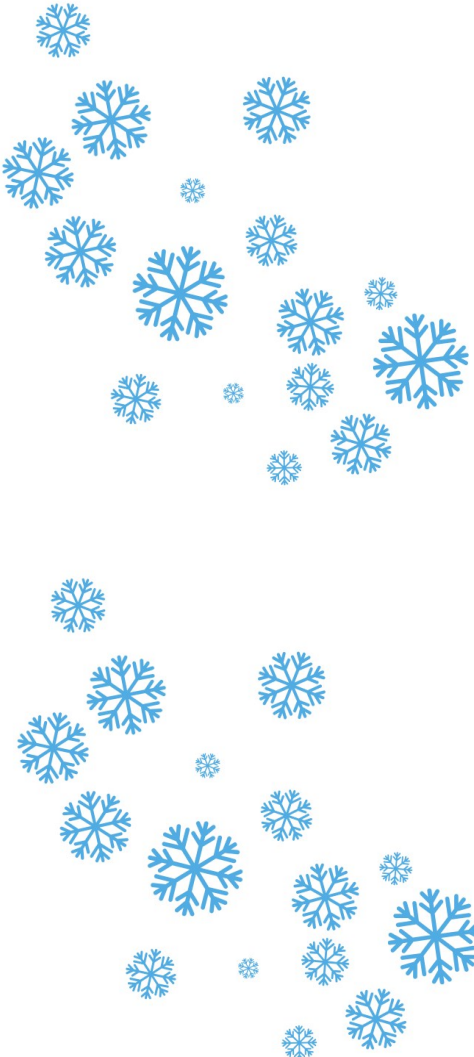
Grace and peace,
Pastor John

Trustee Notes

The Board of Trustees have spent energy, time and resources on repair work this past month. In addition to getting the boiler serviced, we have had an outbreak of graffiti on fences, doors and two outer walls. Thanks to Rob Engelgau, who has been quick to clean and repaint the areas, the building continues to look good. However, the last tagging resulted in our street sign on Summerland Court being sprayed and may result in replacement. In addition to the spraying of black and bright green paint two fires have been set on the property. These are of the utmost concern. All of the incidents have been reported to the Sheriff. Please listen to conversations that may be from neighbors, etc. We are hopeful that alertness on the part of the community might be beneficial to solving the vandalism issues.



Winter Blitz Team



Winter Blitz 2024 was a time of learning as each location became independent in many ways including planning, fundraising, scheduling and implementation. Now that we have a good idea of the expectations, I'd like to put together a team to do our work for Winter Blitz 2025. Will you consider being a part of the Winter Blitz Team? Together we can do great work for the students and their families of the schools in our area. A few things of note:

We'll start our work in May with a planning meeting. I don't expect that we will need to meet often – maybe 2 or 3 times before the event.

We'll brainstorm, we'll plan, we'll make decisions, we'll do good works.

Winter Blitz 2025 will be held on Sat, Dec 6 at OGUMC.

If you are willing to be on the Winter Blitz 2025 team, please let me know soon! I look forward to having a team of loving people to implement this program that serves so many in our area. Please consider this opportunity to serve.

Deb Payne, Winter Blitz Coordinator

Spring Forward

Set your
clocks forward
one hour on
March 9th



Calling All Singers!

Let's get together and sing some anthems for Lent and/or Easter. Bring your voices and your friends who like to sing to church at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 26th and we will begin rehearsals.



Cans & Bottles Drop Box

The Finance Team is very excited to announce that we have been approved for non-profit status with BottleDrop. Yay! As you read in last month's newsletter, Tad Boxell has stepped forward to serve as OGUMC's Can Man, and he has things underway. (Giant thanks, Tad!)

As we look for ways to increase our income at OGUMC, this is an easy way to earn some extra dollars. Here's how it works:

You save your cans and bottles that require a deposit at the time of purchase.

You bring your saved cans and bottles to the church and put them in one of the "Drop" boxes in the Fellowship Hall.

Tad will manage getting our cans and bottles bagged and tagged appropriately and take them to BottleDrop every week or so.

It's a super simple way to increase our income at OGUMC, you don't have to manage returning your bottles and cans, and it will help us to continue serving the congregation and community at large. It's a win-win-win! Please consider bringing your cans and bottles to the church for Tad, The Can Man to turn in for us!

Deb Payne, Finance Chair



What is Red Lodge Mission?

Our United Women in Faith at Oak Grove UMCC are supporting Red Lodge Transition Services at Oregon City as they help Native American women transition out of prison into normal life in a culturally sensitive way. By honoring their cultural perspective, you honor the woman making the journey and strengthen her.

The ladies live at Red Lodge for a period of 6 – 12 months, to establish the skills of living: planning their day, accomplishing goals, learning to drive, finding housing and work. After years of being told what to do when, simple initiatives and organizing time don't come naturally. Work skills are often learned while in prison, so they are "work ready", but need good routines and presentation to get employed and stay employed.

Another area needing rebuilding is relationships with children, family and others in a trusting, healthy way. Officially, prisons discharge a person back into the location in which they are arrested, so Red Lodge has a waiver to take ladies from other areas so they can re-build fresh, away from previous bad influences, so family connection needs to be nurtured constructively and thoughtfully.

Part of the re-building is re-connecting to nature, as prison strips that away and it is essential, even sacred, to native traditions. Red Lodge has a nice back patio area on their wooded 3 acre site. The last 3 years our UWF filled the patio pots with flowers and purchased a patio set for their enjoyment. We will return this year to clean and fill the patio pots (around 35!) and make the outdoors more inviting and hospitable. Our work crew numbered 5 ladies, but many more in the UWF group paid expenses and cheered them on...

Trish Jordan the Executive Director of Red Lodge will be speaking via zoom to our UWF on April 12th at 1:30pm. Anyone interested in hearing her speak, need only contact Donna Metcalf at donnalmetcalf@comcast.net to receive the zoom link. If you want to help with the potting done during the first week in May, let Donna know as we need many hands.

UWF finds so many ways to turn faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth! Join the joy!



TRANSITION SERVICES

An Invitation to Lenten Discipline

“At the heart of the Christian faith is our participation in the life, suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ as Lord.”

--*The New Handbook of the*

Christian Year

Lent is the season of the church year during which we remember the sufferings of Jesus Christ by associating ourselves with them through the practice of Spiritual Disciplines. Traditionally, the church has taught Christians to practice penitence—a willingness to admit our sin and atone for it—throughout the forty days of the Lenten season. Some of the classic Spiritual Disciplines of the Christian faith are associated closely with penitence, chief among them the practice of fasting, refraining from some part of life, usually food, for a set period of time. Other Spiritual Disciplines require the believer to take on some regular practice for spiritual benefit. Below is a list of suggestions for Spiritual Disciplines from which you might choose to adopt for the season of Lent.

Fasting:

From food: Commit to setting aside one meal each week and donating the money you would have spent to feed others.

From technology: Ask all members of your family to abstain from use of TV, phone, computer and other technological devices for a time of Sabbath each week.

From overwork: make a commitment to take time for true Sabbath—time for renewal—one day each week. Allow yourself time to accomplish nothing.

Carbon Fast: Commit to specific practices that will reduce your “carbon footprint,” such as recycling, walking or carpooling to destinations.

Journaling: Keep a diary of spiritual and life reflections throughout the season.

Spiritual growth: Commit to a group spiritual life experience you are not currently engaging in such as The weekly Lenten Study, a service opportunity such Sack Lunch preparation, or giving of your financial resources to the Wichita Center.

Daily Prayer: adopt a practice of prayer each day at the same time, morning or evening, using a guidebook or online guide such as The Upper Room.

Scripture Reading: Commit to reading a book of the Bible, particularly one of the Gospels, reading a selection each day. Bishop Mike McKee challenges us each year to read the books of Luke and Acts during Lent.

Care for Others:

Visit the sick or imprisoned at least once each week.

Call a friend, family member, coworker, or church member each day to ask how they are doing.

Intentionally create connections with others in places you might not ordinarily think to do so.

Promote social justice for the poor by purchasing Fair Trade products when possible.

Our Journey Together Through Lent

Oak Grove United Methodist Church

Together in Worship

Ash Wednesday **Mar 5 at 6:00 pm**

Let's begin the Lenten season together on this day – Ash Wed – a solemn reminder of human mortality and the need for reconciliation with God.

Sunday Worship **Sundays at 10:30am**

Let's worship together during the six Sundays of Lent – the period of reflection, penance, fasting, and preparation.

Maundy Thursday **Apr 17, time TBA**

We will gather at St. Paul's UMC to remember together Jesus' last supper with his disciples.

Good Friday **Apr 18 at 6:00pm**

Let's come together to remember the day Jesus was crucified – the day Jesus willingly suffered and died as the ultimate sacrifice for our sins.

Easter Sunday **Apr 20 at 10:30am**

Let's celebrate together the resurrection of our Lord with

Together in Study

"Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming" by Henri Nouwen

Lent is a time of introspection and growing spiritually closer to God. Our study is a rich, meditative study helping us look at ourselves through the lens of the familiar parable.

Our class will run for 6 weeks from Monday, 3/10 to 4/14 at 10:30am in room 7 of the church. We will offer hybrid teaching so the classes will have a zoom option as well as in person.

Please order your own books which are \$9.49@ on Amazon, and if you need help getting a book, let Donna Metcalf know. Also please register with Donna Metcalf at (503) 200- 9716 or via email at donna@metcalf.com

Together in Giving – Time and Resources

We have two ways to give to our communities during this season of Lent.

Sack Lunch Preparation: We gather to create 150 sack lunches twice monthly to be delivered to the Clackamas Service Center and Father's Heart for distribution to those dealing with food scarcity. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall to volunteer and let's give of our time together. Coordinator: Mary Stockwell

March 10 @ 3:30 Mar 24 @ 3:30 April 7 @ 3:30 April 21 @ 3:30

The Wichita Center: During this Lenten season, our resources giving focus will be on the Wichita Center. The Wichita Center provides our District families with a central location in which to find assistance with food, clothing, housing, dental care, after school programs and more! Giving boxes will be made available as Lent begins. Each time you experience God's presence in your life during the season, drop a few coins into your box expressing your gratitude and love of our Lord. We will turn in our boxes on Easter morning. In addition to the financial giving, the needs at the center are tomato products, peanut butter and shampoo. These can be dropped off at the church drop site (in the hallway across from the women's restroom) and will be delivered to

A Case Study from the Renewal Team

For many years I have done my own work on my cars. I change the oil; I keep air in the tires; I keep fluids topped off; I changed the windshield wiper blades; and more.

But when a certain light becomes visible on the dashboard, I know that I need to take the car and get help from my neighborhood mechanic with special skills and knowledge. I learned that I need to go to a mechanic when I hear certain sounds or feel some vibrations or pulls on the steering wheel or see certain lights come up on the dashboard if I want to keep my car working and in good order.

In some ways there is a similar challenge for both pastors and leaders in congregations. Pastors and congregational leaders benefit from regular organizational maintenance which includes identifying the flags that indicate more intentional help is needed. Imagine these two scenarios as a case study.



CHURCH LEADER

A church leader is confused or frustrated with something the pastor is doing. The leader speaks to the pastor, but the attempts to dialogue about it don't resolve the issue. The church leader gets more and more frustrated, and things begin to spiral out of control. Can you fill in the blanks for the next steps as things escalate? What are the next steps, if any?

PASTOR

Imagine now the flip side. Imagine a pastor who is running into challenges with certain church leaders. The pastor is getting push back. Perhaps there is open resistance to ideas he or she is putting forward. And the pastor's attempts to move forward by bypassing the church leaders simply causes an escalation the tension. Soon the conflict boils over and is out of control. You may be able to fill in the blanks here too.

In both these situations things got stuck but neither the pastor nor the key church leaders knew how to get the needed repairs. The scenarios described above approximate what has happened at Oak Grove UMC over the past several years. When things got stuck neither pastors nor church leaders had the strategies for getting the repairs done which was to increase our attention and intentionality to address the problems with faithful love and hope.

That is the work the Renewal Team is doing for our congregation. Our goal is to identify approaches that keep communication moving forward in ways that build up the body of Christ. For many congregations this begins by developing ways in which we will engage in our disagreements and in ways that keep us on track and in alignment with our deeper purposes and mission.

So, what's next?

Save the Dates!

Sundays, April 27 & May 18

11:30am-2:00pm

Discerning the Charism of Oak Grove UMC

The Charism of our congregation refers to the unique spirit that animates our church community, and is part of our permanent heritage including our church's mission history, our traditions, structure, etc. During these two sessions, we will reflect together on shared experiences of Oak Grove UMC and join in a process to help us identify the guiding purpose of our congregation. Our work will ultimately guide us in assessing and determining a mission statement Oak Grove UMC as we move forward with the Renewal work.

During the two sessions, we will gather following Worship, enjoy a simple lunch, and work together to discover our Charism. All are invited to these two sessions! A sign-up sheet will be made available in the Fellowship Hall late in March or you can notify either Deb Payne or the Church Office know that you will be attending. We ask that you sign-up to make sure that we have lunch ready for you.

More information will be provided in the coming weeks! For now, please SAVE THE DATES and plan to be a part of this exciting work!

The Renewal Team



Wichita Center Focused Needs

March

Tomato products

Peanut Butter

Shampoo



Clackamas Service Center

Focused Needs

March

Snacks: bars, crackers,
fruit cups
&
Body wash



DATE CHANGE!

Throwback Concert with Mark Ortloff & Friends

A Musical Celebration of Decades Past

Saturday, June 14th at 4:00pm



One of our musicians, our much-loved Mark Ortloff, needs a hip replacement, and the surgeon has been able to schedule it! YAY! But, you guessed it! Mark will be recovering on the date that the concert was originally scheduled. Do not despair! The concert has been rescheduled for Saturday, June 14th at 4:00pm. If you are unable to attend the concert on the new date, and you purchased a ticket at our FUNdraiser last Fall, you can give your tickets to someone else, consider the cost of your ticket as a donation to the church, or request a refund. But, we are hoping, hoping, hoping that you will be able to attend this terrific event on the new date!

If you missed out on getting tickets for this wonderful concert (that's back by popular demand) and would like to attend the concert, please see Deb or Gloria Payne for tickets in May. They are \$15 each (checks made out to the church), and a fun time will be had by all! You don't want to miss out on this special time together!

REMINDER: Newsletter Articles & Due Dates

We use our church newsletter and weekly email blast to effectively communicate information to the congregation in order to keep everyone informed about church activities, foster a sense of community, and essentially acting as a central hub for sharing news!

So, if you have information to share with the congregation, share away! Due dates for your articles are:

Monthly Newsletter: due no later than the fourth Monday of each month (and it is included in the weekly email blast on Thursdays).

Weekly Email – due no later than 9:00am on Wednesdays of each week, and it is sent each Thursday afternoon.

NOTE: If you do not receive the weekly email blast on Thursdays, just let Jenny know in the church office, and she will make sure you are on the distribution list.



Happy Birthday

March

March 2 Laurie Yadon
March 6 Janet Beale
March 8 Bud Robinson
March 15 Barbara Brandt
March 16 Cathy Dulmage
March 19 Walt Garvin
March 22 Joan McNamara
March 28 Dale Naftzger
March 29 Steve Busch



April

April 3 Adrian Blackman
April 5 Norma Campbell
April 8 Mark Ortloff
April 10 Joe Dryden
April 13 Donna Hall
April 14 Tami Busch
April 18 Vena Edwards
April 19 Deb Payne
April 21 Jeannie Lambert
April 21 Alyssa Bolger
April 21 Amy Persad
April 24 Patricia Doyle
April 24 Geri Nelson
April 27 Otis Quattlebaum

Are we missing a birthday? Let us know! Contact the office 503-654-3161 officeogumc@gmail.com

Connect with us

Facebook:

OakGroveUnitedMethodistChurch-Oregon

YouTube:

Oak Grove United Methodist Church Oregon

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Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday
9am-12pm & 1pm-3pm

Weekly Events

- **Sundays at 10:30am**
Worship Service in-person and online
- **Tuesdays at 10:00am**
Men's Bible reading class
- **Wednesdays at 12:00 pm**
AA Women's group
- **Wednesdays at 6:00 pm**
AA group
- **Wednesdays at 7:30 pm** Al-Anon
- **Thursdays at 10:00 am** Quilters
- **Thursdays at 10:00am** Al-Anon